



Philippines Enterprise-Based Biodiversity Conservation Project

October 1999 — September 2008

The Philippines has only 22% of the forest cover it had in 1900. The loss of biodiversity, natural disasters, and chronic environmental degradation as a result of forest destruction prompted the Philippine Government to issue a ban on logging in 1992 and promote a Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Program administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines. However, the policy initiative alone does address the underlying economic threats to the forests.

As part of USAID's Global Conservation Project, EnterpriseWorks is currently working with community groups to establish profitable, model enterprises that offer sustainable economic alternatives to timber poaching activities, unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products, slash and burn cultivation, burning of grazing lands, and tourist development. Building on the experiences in India, Indonesia, Nepal, and elsewhere in the Philippines, EnterpriseWorks and local partners have focused on the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor in the northeast region, and the Palawan Corridor, both areas possess globally significant biodiversity. Project staff are promoting improved resource management methods and capacity building for the community groups so as to ensure biodiversity conservation and the maintenance of healthy local watersheds while providing a sustainable source of income to local producers.



OBJECTIVES

- Establish profitable, community-based forestry enterprises.
- Strengthen participating enterprises to encourage complete self-sufficiency within two years.
- Institute effective financial control and management systems for all participating communities.
- Improve forest resource use and ensure sustainable methods of business operation.
- Establish formal and informal ties with the Philippines government and private institutions.
- Link enterprise groups to mainstream markets for their products.
- Improve the Federations of Peoples Organizations' abilities to provide sustainable services to their members in forest resource use planning and management through improved coordination with government, NGOs, and private industry.

Economic Participants

788 --- in 2001

Enterprises Assisted

11 --- in 2001

Total Monetary Benefits

\$23,593 --- in 2001

Cumulative TMB

\$56,545

Project Budget

\$1,293,000

Primary Funders

USAID/Global
USAID/Philippines

- Transfer resource management tools and strategies to Federations - developed under proven conservation programs - for articulating and integrating threat abatement strategies into resource management and economic development activities.
- Develop Federations' capacity to administer biological monitoring and meet legal compliance with forestry regulations.

PROGRESS REPORT

Baseline assessments of 31 community groups in the Sierra Madre and all 28 original Palawan groups were conducted by EWW in 2002 through the respective regional Federations of CBFM groups. Baseline assessments are a crucial tool in evaluating the current problems faced by CBFM groups in effectively managing their forests and target ways to improve. Baseline studies include: overview of resource (biological) condition; listing of major threats to forest conservation; status of compliance with CBFM and other DENR rules; existing linkages with government, NGOs, and private sector; and progress made in enterprise development by Federation members.

Formation of multi-sectoral task force and training. An activity that the Federations have initiated, with assistance from EWW, is the formation of multi-sectoral task forces in the Sierra Madre and Palawan that will work to better coordinate and implement biological monitoring, conflict resolution, policy review and advocacy, and monitoring and compliance of CBFM requirements. The task force members are drawn from the DENR and other government agencies, local government units, federation and CBFM group members, private sector, and local NGOs. These organizations are also to be included in capacity building activities. Contributions from task force members and the improved coordination among individual member's work in resource management are expected to make the GCP initiated activities sustainable after EWW exits from the project.

Capacity building initiated. EWW provided direct capacity building to seven CBFM groups and included hands-on training in resource inventory, perimeter survey, land use planning, annual work plan, resource use permit preparation, environmental compliance certificate, and initial environmental examination.

Establish monitoring and adaptive management. EWW introduced threats-evaluation tools, biological monitoring, prepared community maps, updated biological monitoring plans, and enforced biological inventory norms for select CBFM groups in the Sierra Madre region.